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Vision 2020 Committee Minutes 01/11/2005

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes of January 11, 2005 Meeting

Attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Bettie Connors, Kathleen Kiely Dias, Gail Dubois, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Sherry Miller, Oakes Plimpton, Allen Reedy, Heidi Sheehan.

- The **minutes** of the December meeting were accepted as presented.

Task Group Reports:

- **Fiscal Resources:** Allen Reedy presented an addendum to the Peer communities report: a chart, requested by the Selectmen, comparing Arlington to a list of communities used by the Personnel Department when setting pay scales. FR is now considering whether there is any reason to modify this list.
- FR is also reviewing a study it did several years ago of fiscal organization in other communities, and is proposing a warrant article for a committee to study whether Arlington's system should be reorganized under a Chief Financial Officer. The Standing Committee will join FR in submitting this warrant article.
- **Insurance:** Andrew Fischer noted that this committee may have run its course. It has compiled a 35-page information packet and is planning a presentation to the Council on Aging and possibly the League of Women Voters on community-based insurance.

Coming Events:

- The State of the Town address will again be sponsored by Fiscal Resources on the first day of Town Meeting. It was agreed that there isn't enough time to have a State of the Schools address on the same day. (No request for such an address has been made yet.)
- The Warrant Review will be sponsored by Governance, probably the week of April 11 or 18.
- Candidates' Night will be sponsored by Vision 2020; date to be set.

Census Survey:

- The census has just been mailed out; replies in bulk can be expected by late January. Data entry plans were discussed. Heidi Sheehan will try to create a spreadsheet into which volunteers can enter data at home for later downloading into Heidi's master file. The groups which contributed questions to the survey can be asked to supply some volunteers to help with data entry.
- It was noted that next year's survey should point out that each household's precinct (requested on the survey for demographics but often omitted) can be found on its census form.

Other Matters:

- Oakes Plimpton is suggesting the establishment of a "coffeehouse" as a permanent gathering place in Arlington. The committee discussed possible locations and encouraged him to pursue the idea and to check with the Town Counsel. Oakes also suggested using the Town website as a vehicle for residents to locate e.g. tennis partners.
- Elizabeth Karpati suggested an easily accessible compilation of bylaws that every resident should know about but often doesn't – e.g., shovel your sidewalk and don't feed the geese. Since not everybody reads the *Advocate*, a good way to get this information to every household would be to include it in the "Town Planner" calendar.